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ABSTRACT

This publication lists 91 trade books that a group of adult literacy professionals have read and recommended for use in adult literacy programs. An introductory section explains the process used to decide upon recommended books, provides a key for the symbols that describe each book, and makes some general suggestions for the ways books from the list might be used. The top of each sheet provides bibliographic information about the book: author, title, publisher, ISBN number, illustrator, date, and city. The type of book is followed by the reading group's rating of the book. Information about the type of book and its characters and setting follow. Each entry may also identify the types of adult literacy learners who might be especially interested in the book. General Educational Development descriptors follow, as does a list of themes for the book that were suggested by members of the reading group. The final sections of each page provide a brief summary of the book and several instructional suggestions. Suggestions include writing and discussion topics, ideas for thematic units, and possible companion titles. (YLB)

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ED 381 672

Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions

Compiled by

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and

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Enhancing adult literacy in the State of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Program Directors/Coordinators

FROM: Jean Stephens, Director

DATE: April 10, 1995

Enclosed please find Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions. This publication is a product of the Ohio Literacy Resource Center Reading Group which has been working for the last year under the direction of Pat Bloem, Research Assistant, and Nancy Padak, OLRC Project Administrator. This project has been funded by the OLRC.

We hope that next year we can send you an update to this publication which would include additional pages listing more books that have been identified as appropriate for adult literacy programs.

Currently we are planning training sessions for teachers wishing to explore effective ways to use this publication. We will offer four sessions, one for each of the regional programs in Ohio. The dates are set for October 6th in the Northeast, October 13th for the Central/Southeast, November 10th in the Southwest, and December 1st in the Northwest.

Please share this publication with all teachers and adult literacy educators who may be interested in new ways of using books and literature with adult learners. If you or any of your teachers have questions about this material, please contact Pat Bloem (1-800-765-2897).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Tim Ponder for his patience and help setting up the database, Carol Vescova and Georgia Gallagher for their secretarial help, and Maggie Bush for her work with data entry.

We are in the process of developing additional teaching materials for these books, and several people have begun to field test them for us in a variety of educational settings. Thanks to Minnie Marshall and Connie Sapin from the Even Start Family Literacy Program in Cleveland; Priscilla Robinson from Project READ in Cleveland; Ronetta Rafeld from Canton Even Start, and Stark County ABLE; Ann-Marie Miller, ABE Volunteer from Ashland; and Laura Moss from Miami Valley Literacy Council.

Almost all of these books were made available to us through the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Libraries. Special thanks to the Children's Librarians from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Main Library for their time and enthusiasm.

This collection has been funded by the Ohio Literacy Resource Center.

Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs

More than a year ago, we assembled a group of adult literacy professionals who were interested in promoting the use of authentic literature in adult literacy classrooms. We meet occasionally and also correspond through the mail and electronically. One of our major goals has been to develop a list of trade books that we believe can and should be used in adult literacy programs. This collection, funded by the Ohio Literacy Resource Center, represents the first year of our work. In this brief introduction, we will explain the process used to decide upon recommended books, provide a key for the symbols that describe each book, and make some general suggestions for the ways you might use books from the list.

Selecting the Books

At least three (and often more) of us read each book. The books on this list were recommended by all readers. Our discussions about the books focused on:

- their strengths as pieces of literature. All of the books in this list are, in our opinions, high quality literature because of the texts, the illustrations, or the interaction between the two. We took adult perspectives in making these judgments; that is, we tried to answer the question, "Is this a high quality piece of literature for adults?"

- their usefulness in adult literacy programs, including those for ESL learners, beginning readers, and GED preparation programs. This list does not include books that we recommend only for use in family literacy programs (a separate OLRC publication does that), although many of the titles can be used in family literacy programs as well as other types of adult literacy programs.

- the ways in which we might use the books. We generated many of the "Teaching Ideas" on the following pages, for example. We also talked about the ways books might supplement GED study and suggested some titles that could together create text sets.

Understanding the Symbols

At the top of each sheet you will find bibliographic information about the book, including the ISBN numbers you will need for purchasing them. (Note: All these titles are available at 40% off list price from Book Wholesalers, Inc. Call the OLRC if you need further information.) Next is the reading group's rating of the book: W for whole-hearted approval for use in any way, or G for some teacher guidance will probably be needed.

Information about the type of book and its characters and setting follow. A Y next to each line indicates that the book has that characteristic, that group of characters, or that setting. Next, also using Y, we recommend the types of adult literacy learners who might be especially interested in the book. GED descriptors follow, as does a list of themes for the book that were suggested by members of the reading group.

The final sections of each page provide a brief summary of the book and several instructional suggestions. Especially prominent in the latter are writing and discussion topics, suggestions for thematic units, and possible companion titles.

Using the List

We selected books that we believe to be outstanding, but we strongly recommend that you read the books yourself before using them in your programs. (If titles are not available in your public library, a librarian can help you obtain them through inter-library loan.) As you decide about using each title, we recommend that you think about your students and the way your instructional program is organized. These individual differences may affect both the books you choose and the ways in which the books are used in your program.

Here are several ways to use these books instructionally:

- read a book or a portion of a book (i.e., some poems, a short story) aloud at each instructional session. These read-alouds may be connected to themes or units of study, they may be followed by writing or discussion, or they may simply be for enjoyment.
- make books available for your students to read individually. You might establish a sustained silent reading (SSR) period in your program, for example, or you might simply have books available for learners to peruse during their free time.
- collect books related to themes or units of study, and use these to supplement instruction. For example, as part of the study of World War II, you could assemble books from the list that take place during that time period. Individual students could read individual titles and share their insights with the group. Some of the titles could also be used as read-alouds or become the focus of small group activity.
- use a book for the entire class (or a small group) to read and discuss. Many of the novels included in the list can be used in this way.

Conclusion

We hope you will find this list useful. Please let us know how these books work in your programs, and feel free to suggest additional titles for our group to evaluate. We expect to provide annual updates for this list. We are also developing text sets, which will be lists of titles that are related to GED descriptors or other possible instructional themes. Finally, we have written lesson plans for some of the books that could be used for whole- or small-group reading and discussion. These are currently being field-tested in adult literacy classrooms. All these projects will be distributed as soon as they are in final form.

Patricia L. Bloem
Nancy D. Padak
March, 1995

Author : **Abells, C.**

Illustrator : from Archives of Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem & Israel

Title : **The Children We Remember**

Date : 1986

Publisher : Greenwillow Books

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-06372-1

Type : photodocument
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : Holocaust, survival, death

Summary : Archive photographs and a simple text tell the story of the Nazi's attempt to starve and kill the Jews during WW II.

Teaching Ideas : This powerful book may be best for solitary contemplation. However, it may elicit discussions on hate, courage, current events with Neo-Nazis, Schindler's List, etc. It fits into a WW II unit along with I Never Saw Another Butterfly, The Lily Cupboard, Grandmother's Journey, and War Boy.

Author : **Adoff, A.** Illustrator : Steptoe, J.

Title : **All the Colors of the Race** Date : 1982

Publisher : Morrow City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-688-11496-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, African-Americans, integrated families

Summary : A collection of poems celebrating the family and minority heritages. The poems are spoken in the voice of a girl, the child of an African-American mother and Jewish father.

Teaching Ideas : Volunteers (students) may want to read these poems aloud. The vocabulary is simple, and the poems are appropriate for beginning readers. Teachers might pick and choose which poems are best for use. The theme of skin tone might elicit interesting reflection, discussion, and writing.

Author : **Altman, S. & Lechner, S.** Illustrator : Wooden, B.

Title : **Followers of the North Star** Date : 1993

Publisher : Children's Press City : Chicago

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-516-05151-2

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-American history, heroes

Summary : These poems present a profile of African-American heroes in an historical and cultural context.

Teaching Ideas : Since the quality of poems vary, teachers and students together may want to choose which ones to read aloud, which ones to discuss, or which ones to study.

Author : **Angelou, M.** Illustrator : Feelings, T.

Title : **Now Sheba Sings the Song** Date : 1987

Publisher : Penguin Books, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-452-27143-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : African-American women, sexuality, poetry, Africa, art

Summary : This book consists of one long poem and dozens of sketches of African-American women. It is a sensuous book that celebrates the sexuality, the history, and the strength of black women.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may choose simply to read this aloud, or have students read it and study the illustrations and words. The representation is fairly explicit, and teachers may want to consider the match between student and text before introducing it. It could be used with other poems (perhaps by Lucille Clifton) to study metaphor. It could serve as part of a unit on African-American poetry, one that might begin with the Harlem Renaissance. Students could discuss the traits and strengths of black women or write about a strong black woman they know.

Author : **Angelou, M.** Illustrator : Basquiat, J.M.

Title : **Life Doesn't Frighten Me** Date : 1993

Publisher : Stewart, Tabori & Chang City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-55670-288-4

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : poetry, 20th century art, fear and courage

Summary : In this single poem, Angelou celebrates courage to face internal and external fears, the courage that grows out of a belief in ourselves. The contemporary art is bold and child-like but may have the power to scare children. The text is repetitive and easy to read, but the two biographies (of Angelou and Basquiat) that conclude the book, both fascinating, are written at a much more difficult level.

Teaching Ideas : New readers could easily read and enjoy the poem. The book may spark discussions on contemporary art (the art may be controversial), on the match between the words and the art, and on the role fear plays in our lives.

Author : **Bang, M.** Illustrator : Bang, M.

Title : **Dawn** Date : 1983

Publisher : Morrow City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-02400-9

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : sacrifice, legends and tales, love between husband and wife

Summary : In this adaptation of a traditional tale, a wounded Canadian goose takes on the shape of a woman. An island man, a sailmaker, loves her and she him. But when he demands that she help him make an intricate sail, she plucks out all her feathers and kills herself for his sake.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this story carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of legends, fables, and folk tales. The woman's identity may not be immediately apparent to the readers; they may want to discuss her as well as the role of her daughter. The book could serve as a springboard for discussions on husband and wife relationships and the role that love and sacrifice play in how we live. Teachers may want to compare this tale to one from another tradition, for example, Bruchac's First Strawberries, a tale also about the love between a man and a woman. This book could be used as a model for adults who wish to write their own folk tale, and it also lends itself to journal reflections.

Author : **Bartone, E.** Illustrator : Lewin, T.

Title : **Peppe the Lamplighter** Date : 1993

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-10269-7

Type : immigrant fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : immigration, poverty, work, American Dream, New York City, Italian-Americans, family

Summary : In this beautifully illustrated book, a young Italian immigrant boy finds a job lighting the lamps to help support his invalid father and many sisters. His proud father thinks it is inferior work until the night the boy refuses to light the lamps, and his little sister does not return home because of the dark.

Teaching Ideas : The art rather than the text (quite sentimental) is the strength of the book. This story would be especially appropriate for students who have their own immigration story to tell or write or who've also supported a family. This book could be part of a unit on immigration, on New York City (and geography), or on the importance of work. Students might choose to write a story from the point of view of the father or one of the sisters or may want to discuss parents' goals for their children.

Author : **Baylor, B.** Illustrator : Parnall, P.

Title : **I'm in Charge of Celebrations** Date : 1986

Publisher : Scribner's City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-684-18579-2

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : solitude, the environment, living with nature, Native-Americans

Summary : A desert woman is asked if she is lonely and replies by telling about all the natural wonders she witnesses. The title comes from her idea of marking the calendar for the following year to celebrate whatever she saw. The illustrations show the narrator to be a teenage girl, but her age is not significant to the text. The author uses a fair amount of text for a picture book, although the vocabulary is simple.

Teaching Ideas : This type of free verse would be easy to imitate (although hard to do well). It could be part of a unit on the environment, or a unit on solitude vs. loneliness, or a unit on self-esteem. Or, since it evokes a strong sense of place, it could be used as part of a regional or geographic unit. Teachers may ask students to make a list of their celebrations, to discuss them, and perhaps to write a poem or song about them.

Author : **Belton, S.** Illustrator : Cooper, F.

Title : **From Miss Ida's Porch** Date : 1993

Publisher : Four Winds Press City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-708915-0

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : reminiscences, African-Americans, black musicians, community, home, story telling, civil rights

Summary : People from the street gather on Miss Ida's porch to hear stories, especially stories about important black musicians (Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Marian Anderson) and their personal connections to them. These I-remember-when-stories are both heartfelt and instructive in terms of the personal side of history.

Teaching Ideas : This book might make a good introduction to a unit on story telling. Or readers could follow up the reading of this book by writing about their own connections (rendezvous with or memory of) with an important person. ABE teachers may want to augment this book by reading aloud (or assigning) some of the porch scenes from Zora Neale Hurston's books.

Author : **Berry, J.** Illustrator :

Title : **Ajeemah and His Son** Date : 1991

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-440523-0 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : slavery, Jamaica, Africa, inhumanity of people

Summary : This very powerful, short chapter book (83 pages) is set first in Africa, then on a slave ship, and then in Jamaica where Ajeemah and his son are taken. It tells the story of a father and son who are captured outside of their village and torn from their lives to begin new lives as slaves, and follows their very different fates.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to read this book individually, respond in journal writing, and then in an all-class discussion. Teachers may want to pair this book with other books on slavery, use it to teach geography (Africa and Jamaica) and history. Students may want to research and compare slavery in Jamaica vs. the United States. Students may want to reflect on the point of view of second and third generations after immigration (forced or voluntary). Students may want to respond to the reading of this book by writing their family histories. Because of its power, teachers may want to plan carefully.

Author : **Blos, J.W.** Illustrator :

Title : **A Gathering of Days** Date : 1979

Publisher : Macmillan City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-689-71419-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : 19th century, New England, journals, death, slavery, farm life

Summary : This book, subtitled A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32, is a fictitious diary kept by a fourteen-year-old girl during the last years she spent on her family's farm. During these months Catherine's father remarried, her closest friend died of fever, and she helped a runaway slave.

Teaching Ideas : Although the book reads like an accurate portrayal of life in rural New England in the 1830's, because of the adolescent voice teachers may want to carefully pair the book with the right student or use excerpts of it with a group. Students might enjoy rewriting some of the journal entries from the point of view of one of the adults. The section on Nat Turner or the part on moving to Ohio may be excerpted and read as part of a unit on slavery or Ohio history. It may be used with Paterson's Lyddie.

Author : **Bruchac, J.** Illustrator : Vojtech, A.

Title : **The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story** Date : 1993

Publisher : Dial City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1332-0

Type : Cherokee legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : legend, love story, Native-American tale, family communication, resolving conflicts

Summary : A quarrel between husband and wife is resolved when strawberries begin to grow.The text is simple but not condescending.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers should present this story carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of legends, fables, and folktales. This tale could be part of an family literacy unit or an ABE unit on legends from different traditions and ethnic groups. Teachers may want to ask what this myth tells us about male/female relationships in this culture. It may provide a nice contrast to Molly Bang's Dawn. Students could use it as a model for writing their own stories on quarreling or may want to discuss various ways of saying I'm sorry.

Author : **Bunting, E.** Illustrator : Peck, B.

Title : **How Many Days to America?** Date : 1988

Publisher : Clarion City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-54777-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : immigration, refugees, journeys, Thanksgiving

Summary : The narrator, a child from an unnamed Carribean island, escapes the soldiers and the island with his family and takes a dangerous boat trip to the US. At the end they celebrate with a meal and give thanks.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be used at Thanksgiving time or it could be paired with other books that address current political/social problems (like Bunting's Fly Away Home). Teachers should not have difficulty finding articles from the newspaper to use in conjunction with this story. The book may be the springboard for research, discussions or debates on US immigration laws. ESL students and others may want to write their own stories (or those of their parents, grandparents) of immigration.

Author : **Bunting, E.** Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **The Wall** Date : 1990

Publisher : Clarion City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-62977-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : war, Vietnam memorial, veterans, grief, intergenerational relationships

Summary : In this emotionally charged book told from the point of view of the child, a boy and his dad look for the grandfather's name on the Vietnam Memorial.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be part of a read-aloud in a family literacy program or could be read by ABE students in a unit on war or on the Vietnam War. Students could read this with Paulsen's The Monument and research other war monuments (most towns have Civil War monuments). The book is often used as part of a social studies curriculum and lends itself to personal discussions, journal writing, and creative writing.

Author : **Bunting, E.** Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **Fly Away Home** Date : 1991

Publisher : Clarion City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-66415-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : homelessness, the importance of home and of jobs, families in stress

Summary : A homeless boy and his dad live at the airport while the father tries to find an apartment and a job. They hide out from airport officials but receive support from another down-on-their-luck family.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be used as part of a unit on the home. It might spark lively discussions on urban problems or insufficient housing or fuel local research on the extent of homelessness in a given area or a social action project. Certainly the teacher could find newspaper articles and relevant statistics to accompany the reading of the book.

Author : **Bunting, E.** Illustrator : Diaz, D.

Title : **Smoky Night** Date : 1994

Publisher : Harcourt Brace & Company City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-269954-6

Type :	fiction
Rating :	G
Young Adult :	
Picture :	y
Asian :	y
African American :	y
Latino/a :	y
ESL :	
Family :	y
ABE :	y
Rural :	
Urban :	y
GED Descriptors :	recent US history

Themes : riots, hatred, prejudice, communities, Los Angeles, recent US history, inner cities

Summary : A young boy and his mother stay in a shelter during the Los Angeles riots and grow to respect their neighbors.

Teaching Ideas : Students will probably need a political and historical context in order to appreciate this book. Teachers could use this book in many ways, as part of a unit on current or recent political events (and use the book in conjunction with newspaper and magazine articles), to discuss urban living (and pair this book with Levine's Pearl Moscowitz or Bunting's Fly Away Home), to discuss violence (and pair with Angelou's Nothing Frightens Me). Adult students in family literacy programs may want to study this book with their children, and discuss rioting and stealing and anger.

Author : **Cech, J.** Illustrator : McGinley-Nally, S.

Title : **My Grandmother's Journey** Date : 1991

Publisher : Bradbury City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-718135-9

Type : fictional history
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : emigration, immigration, war, Eastern Europe, refugees, survival, the heroes and heroines in our families

Summary : The narrator tells the story of the grandmother's life, and of the many wars and troubles she experienced in Eastern Europe until she came to the US.

Teaching Ideas : This book might be an excellent tool for teaching geography or European history. It may spark good creative writing about journeys and immigrations, or parents might follow the reading of this book by writing about a relative who shaped them or about what they've learned that they'd like to pass on to their children. Teachers might compare this book to Bunting's How Many Days to America and Garland's Lotus Seed. The art is distinctive; students could look for other examples of ethnic designs or discuss the match between the subject matter and the art.

Author : **Chocolate, D.** Illustrator : Albers, D.

Title : **Talk, Talk** Date : 1993

Publisher : Troll Associates City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8167-2818-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : folktales, legends, African village life

Summary : This Ashanti legend tells of the day when all the inaminate objects--animals, yams, stones, & dogs--began to talk and frighten the villagers.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this book carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of folktales and legends. Teachers may want to present this tale along with others from other cultures or use it with other stories that have surprise endings. Students may want to use this story as a model and write their own tale with a surprise ending.

Author : **Cooney, B.** Illustrator : Cooney, B.

Title : **Miss Rumphius** Date : 1982

Publisher : Viking City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-050539-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : geography

Themes : communities, journeying, home, responsibility to society, lessons learned from elders

Summary : The Lupine Lady, the great-aunt of the narrator, travels around the world but returns to Maine to plant lupines and make her world a better place.

Teaching Ideas : This tale could be read in conjunction with other stories about responsibility to our communities. It also could be part of a unit on travelling and home, and teachers certainly could supplement the book with geography lessons. Students might write about their own influential relative.

Author : **Dragonwagon, C.** Illustrator : Pinkney, J.

Title : **Home Place** Date : 1990

Publisher : Macmillan City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-689-71758-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family history, the cycles of nature, archeology, discovery

Summary : While on a hike, a family discovers the site of a ruined house. They find a few abandoned objects and, through terse and poetic words, imagine the family who once lived there. Through superior illustrations Pinkney evokes a world that is part dream and part history.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers might want to spend time thinking of ways that they can tie this book in with the role of imagination. The structure of the book is the past, present, and future. In terms of family history, students could write about a family artifact and imagine its past and future. Students could use the book to begin a study of archeology. The book could be read aloud to a wide age range.

Author : **Feelings, T.** Illustrator : Feelings, T.

Title : **The Soul Looks Back in Wonder** Date : 1988

Publisher : Dial City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1001-1

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : the African-American experience

Summary : This lavishly illustrated book is a collection of 13 poems by African Americans poets such as Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Alexis de Veaux.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to pick and choose poems for different activities. Some poems lend themselves to dramatic readings, some for line-by-line reading and discussion, some for written journal responses. The poems may provide motivation for studying family history and roots. A research project of finding other poems by the authors and other books illustrated by Tom Feelings could follow. Students may want to write their own poems or prose in response to one of the illustrations.

Author : **Fisher, L. E.** Illustrator : Fisher, L.E.

Title : **Kinderdike** Date : 1994

Publisher : Macmillan City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-735365-6

Type : historical legend
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : geography

Themes : floods, community, legends set in history, natural disasters

Summary : In this dramatically illustrated book, a Dutch town is flooded and mostly destroyed, although one child in a cradle and a cat are found after the flood waters recede. Together people work to rebuild and name the town Kinderdike (kinder=child in Dutch).

Teaching Ideas : This book might provoke good research on and discussion of natural disasters, wonders of nature, and environmental issues; in particular teachers may want to tie this story in with the recent floods in the United States. It may be a good springboard to geography study and study of one European culture (teachers should be sure to read the flyleaf carefully). The text is easy and lends itself to reading by ESL students and new readers, but also provides words for vocabulary expansion. Readers may want to write their own text to accompany the illustrations.

Author : **Fleischman, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Borning Room** Date : 1991

Publisher : Harper City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-447099-7 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : U.S. history

Themes : birth and death, prejudice and morality, reminscences, Ohio history

Summary : The narrator remembers growing up in southern Ohio in the 19th century, remembers farm life and the special room used only for birthing and dying, celebrates her relatives with their varying ideas about slavery and religion, remembers her part in hiding slaves.

Teaching Ideas : This 101 page book could be used with one of the Harriet Tubman picture books or with Nightjohn. It also may be part of a unit on Ohio, along with Hamilton's The Bells of Christmas, Hendershot's In Coal Country, or Sanders' Aurora Means Dawn. The details, language, people, are lovingly created and may invoke good creative writing or reminiscences among the older ABE students, and since the story breaks into sections, teachers can easily divide the reading into chunks. The rural setting may also provide teachers with good teaching possibilities. Teachers may want to work with the old-fashioned vocabulary, comparing dialects and regional differences in language or may want to discuss various ways people throughout history have interpreted the Bible.

Author : **Foreman, M.** Illustrator : Foreman, M.

Title : **War Boy: A Country Childhood** Date : 1990

Publisher : Arcade City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-55970-049-1

Type : nonfiction, history
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : British history

Themes : WW II, England, small-town life, memoirs

Summary : The author describes his childhood in a small coastal town in England, which was often bombed during WW II. He offers technical descriptions of gas masks, bomb shelters, etc., as well as describing the games children played and how they interacted with soldiers.

Teaching Ideas : His illustrations (the young adult classification is based on length; it is as much a picture book) evoke the feelings of those days but also depict in detail some of the weapons, gas masks, etc. that were part of everyday life. Students who prefer nonfiction to fiction may be easily drawn into the content, particularly those students who have lived through a war or been in the army. Teachers could use this in a WW II unit or a history unit, and teach geography through it. It is not a short book, so the teacher may want to read sections aloud, or only assign specific pages. May be paired with Stevenson's Don't You Know There's a War On?.

Author : **Garland, S.** Illustrator : Kiuchi, T.

Title : **The Lotus Seed** Date : 1993

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-249465-0

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history, geography

Themes : refugees, immigration, war, hope, Vietnam, family heritage, modern history

Summary : A young girl tells her grandmother's story of being forced to flee to escape civil war, of carrying a lotus seed with her from her homeland of Vietnam, losing it, and then regaining it. The author wanted to show "how a family's heritage is passed down from one generation to the next, and how hope, like the lotus seed, can survive through the worst of circumstances." The text is easy to read. The book ends with a page on Vietnamese history.

Teaching Ideas : This book might provoke discussions about immigrants and their needs, special family treasures, Vietnamese history, or geography. Students might want to write creative or expository responses. It could be part of a unit about immigrants, perhaps to be used with How Many Days to America?

Author : **Gilchrist, J.S.** Illustrator : Gilchrist, J.S.

Title : **Indigo and Moonlight Gold** Date : 1993

Publisher : Black Butterfly City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-86316-210-X

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : African-Americans, mothers and daughters, dreams

Summary : A little girl looks at the stars and dreams.

Teaching Ideas : This would be a good book for mothers and daughters to read aloud to each other. The images (visually and in words) are beautiful--it may inspire poetry or art projects.

Author : **Gregory, V.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **Through the Mickle Woods** Date : 1992

Publisher : Little, Brown and Company City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-316-32779-4

Type : tale
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : death, grief, loss, wisdom

Summary : The king is grieving for his dead wife, but with the help of a wise bear and a young boy learns three lessons about living and loving.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this story carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of fantasy and tales. Students may want to discuss whether life's lessons are easier to learn through stories and study the function of this and other tales. The superior illustrations and subject matter might be the foundation for discussions on why this moving story is more appropriate for adults than children. Teachers may want to introduce symbolism.

Author : **Hamilton, V.** Illustrator :

Title : **Anthony Burns** Date : 1988

Publisher : Knopf City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-679-83997-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : slavery, abolition, 19th century US history

Summary : The subtitle of this book is The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave. Especially appropriate for use in GED classrooms, Anthony Burns is based on fact and includes a timeline and historical footnotes. Hamilton fills out the details to create a well written and compelling story. Anthony Burns was a slave who escaped to freedom but because of the Fugitive Slave Act was returned to slavery until a benefactor bought his freedom.

Teaching Ideas : A GED class may choose to read this book and discuss it chapter by chapter, reviewing historical facts and difficult vocabulary. Teachers could help students create essay responses and use it as a test case for the GED Essay Exam.

Author : **Hamilton, V.** Illustrator : Davis, L.

Title : **The Bells of Christmas** Date : 1989

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-206450-8

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : Ohio history, US history, African-Americans, Christmas, family, customs

Summary : This long picture book may be read slowly, although it is not broken into chapters. It is a reminiscence of an African-American family's celebration of Christmas in the 1890s and is set in the farmlands of Ohio.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to write their family Christmas or Kwanzaa customs or their own family reminiscences. Teachers may want to initiate discussions on physical handicaps and how our cultural treatment of handicapped has (or has not) changed over time.

Author : **Hansberry, L.** Illustrator :

Title : **A Raisin in the Sun** Date : 1987

Publisher : Penguin Books, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-451-16137-8 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : play-drama
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family :
ABE :
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : drama, plays, African-Americans, dreams, integration, families

Summary : When an African-American family chooses to integrate an all-white neighborhood, all of their value systems and relationships come under pressure.

Teaching Ideas : This book would be difficult reading for level 1 ABE students. But if teachers give guidance in the conventions of reading plays, level 2 and 3 and GED students may enjoy reading this African-American classic and perhaps staging parts of it.

Author : **Hendershot, J.** Illustrator : Allen, T.B.

Title : **In Coal Country** Date : 1989

Publisher : Knopf City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-394-88190-7 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : reminiscence, hard work, mining, recent American history, Ohio history, families

Summary : Living in a small Ohio mining town, a girl describes her family's life in the first part of this century.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be part of a geographical or historical unit on Ohio or part of a unit on reminiscences. Readers may want to tell their own childhood stories or those of their parents. This book might fuel an oral history project and inspire readers to interview their elders. It could be the basis of comparison and contrast writing (i.e., then and now, coal mining region vs. another region). Family literacy teachers may want to contrast this book with George Ella Lyon's Mama is a Miner.

Author : **Hendershot, J.** Illustrator : Allen, T.B.

Title : **Up the Tracks to Grandma's** Date : 1993

Publisher : Knopf City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-679-81964-9

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : grandparents, families, Ohio history, small-town life, reminiscences

Summary : A girl describes her visits to her grandmother's home in small-town Ohio in the middle 1900's, a time when her widowed grandmother plucked her own chickens, shoveled her own coal, and could not read English.

Teaching Ideas : This book may spark family histories and story telling. Students may want to interview members of an older generation about the details of their days and lives.

Author : **Hopkinson, D.** Illustrator : Ransome, J.

Title : **Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt** Date : 1993

Publisher : Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-679-82311-5

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : slavery, dreams, resourcefulness, African-American history, quilts

Summary : Based on a true incident, this story tells of a young slave girl's brainstorm of sewing a map of the Underground Railroad onto a quilt so that others can find their way to freedom.

Teaching Ideas : This lovely story would fit into a unit on slavery or on quilt making. Teachers could tie in math (estimation of miles) and map reading and geography. Students may want to research various ways slaves devised to escape their bondage.

Author : **Hughes, L.** Illustrator : Pinkney, B.

Title : **The Dream Keeper and Other Poems** Date : 1994

Publisher : Random House City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-679-84421-X

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature, poetry

Themes : dreams, hopes, the blues, the African-American experience

Summary : A reissue of Hughes' poetry book with seven additional poems (total of 66). The poems are short and make appropriate reading for all levels of ABE. Many of the poems deal with issues of the African-American experience.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to pick and choose from this collection to combine with text sets or to read aloud. Students may chose a poem to present in class or may want to read Cooper's biography of Hughes, Coming Home, with the poems. The poems written in dialect may confuse new readers, but most of them are easily accessible.

Author : **Innocenti, R.**

Illustrator : Innocenti, R.

Title : **Rose Blanche**

Date : 1985

Publisher : Creative Education

City : Mankato

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-55670-207-8

Type : fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : German history

Themes : war, WW II, humanity in face of adversity, sacrifice, Holocaust, courage, Germany

Summary : At great cost, a young girl shares her food with those behind barbed wire in Nazi Germany. The title was the name of the German resistance movement during Hitler's regime.

Teaching Ideas : This could be read aloud (or individually) during a WW II unit or a Holocaust unit. Teachers could spend time talking about the significance of the title and about irony ("spring sang..."). Students may want to discuss civil disobedience or the difference between a country's government and its people.

Author : **Johnson, A.** Illustrator :

Title : **Toning the Sweep** Date : 1993

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-48142-8 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : death, loss, grief, love, rite of passage, families, grandmothers, the desert, photography, African-American women, intergenerational relationships

Summary : Emily goes to the desert with her mother to help her dying grandmother Ola pack up her house and move. She slowly comes to terms with her family history and her coming loss.

Teaching Ideas : This book is rich, and there are many threads students and teachers could follow. Students may want to explore the idea of using cameras to provide perspective on one's life, perhaps in conjunction with MacLachlan's Journey. Teachers may want to combine this book with others set in the desert (like Baylor's I'm in Charge of Celebrations), and build on map reading/geography skills. Teachers may want to talk about the ways we prepare for loss and grief (perhaps with Rylant's Missing May or Rylant's I Have Seen Castles), and ask students to keep a journal or write personal accounts. Teachers may want to spend time talking about the title and the visual metaphors of the book. Students may want to reflect on their relationships with their grandmothers, read other works with strong women characters, and write their own family histories. Perhaps the book would be best appreciated by women.

Author : **Kitchen, B.** Illustrator : Kitchen, B.

Title : **And So They Build** Date : 1993

Publisher : Candlewick Press City : Cambridge

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-56402-217-X

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : biology

Themes : biology, animals, animal behavior, environment, natural sciences, homes

Summary : Each page depicts an unusual animal, insect, or bird and how it builds a home or nest.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to study this book and follow by reading more about home building of animals or by researching one of the animals in depth. Teachers may want to follow with comparison and contrast writing assignments, people to animals, one kind of animal to another.

Author : **Lawrence, J.** Illustrator : Lawrence, J.

Title : **Harriet and the Promised Land** Date : 1993

Publisher : Simon & Schuster City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-671-86673-7

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : freedom, US history, African-American women, Harriet Tubman, slavery, heroes, legends

Summary : The text, consisting of a single rhyming poem, is an accompaniement to Lawrence's contemporary and vivid paintings. The poem tells the story of Harriet Tubman, slave who led other slaves to freedom.

Teaching Ideas : This book could serve as part of a unit on African-American history, US history, slavery, or biography. Students may want to follow by researching the life of Harriet Tubman or by writing about strong African-American women they have known. Teachers may choose to use this book as a read aloud, or guide students in a choral reading.

Author : **Lawrence, J.**

Illustrator : Lawrence, J.

Title : **The Great Migration**

Date : 1993

Publisher : HarperCollins

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-023037-1

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American : y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-Americans, 20th century US history, migration, hardships, search for a new life

Summary : This book has minimal text and bold illustrations, chronicling the movement of African-Americans from the South to the North. In search of a better life, people moved by the thousands, from rural lifestyles mostly to urban poverty. The book begins with historical information by the author and ends with a poem by Walter Dean Myers.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to present this book alone or as part of a unit on African-American history. They may want to encourage students to write their own family stories of immigrations and migrations, pairing the book with Cech's My Grandmother's Journey, Garland's The Lotus Seed, or Temple's Grab Hands and Run. They may want to pair this book with newspaper and journal articles. Students may want to compare the style and art with Lawrence's Harriet and the Promised Land.

Author : **Lee, H.** Illustrator :

Title : **To Kill A Mockingbird** Date : 1960

Publisher : Warner Books, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-446-31078-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : prejudice, justice, the South, small communities, African-American history, growing up

Summary : In this classic American novel set in the '30s, Lee tells the story of two children growing up in the South with their lawyer father who represents an African-American man accused of raping a white woman. The novel is rich and complex in plot and theme.

Teaching Ideas : Most appropriate for GED students, this 281 page book has enough suspense and appeal that many readers will not be daunted by its length. Students may want to act some scenes out with each other or may want to follow the reading of the book by seeing the classic movie staring Gregory Peck. It would lead easily into a study of the judicial system and tie in with recent noteworthy trials (OJ Simpson, Rodney King). Students may want to follow by analyzing Jem and Scout's road out of childhood, by discussing parenting issues and the model Atticus provides. Students may want to read this book as part of a unit on the South during the Depression.

Author : **Lee, J.** Illustrator : Lee, J.

Title : **Toad is the Uncle of Heaven** Date : 1985

Publisher : Henry Holt City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8050-1147-1 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : Vietnamese folktale
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : pourquoi story, Vietnam, nature

Summary : This folktale answers the question Why does the toad croak? It is a cultural explanation for nature, the environment, death, and life. The illustrations draw on traditional Vietnamese figures. They may be foreign looking to Americans, but they are not childish.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this tale carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of folktales and legends. Lots of cultures have porquoi stories. This book may especially be suited for use in a Family Literacy program or in an ESL family literacy program. Teachers may want to compare and contrast this tale with other folktales from other cultures.

Author : **Levine, A.A.** Illustrator : Roth, R.

Title : **Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand** Date : 1993

Publisher : Tambourine City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-10754-0

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American : y
Latino/a : y
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : community, changing cities, ethnicity, environment, urban development, social activism, history of immigration, government

Summary : Pearl M., a long-time resident of her city street, refuses to let the city chop down the last gingko tree on the block. The book depicts the different ethnic groups that have moved onto the street, but shows a real community of people interacting and living side by side. Although the book is lighthearted and fun, it answers a serious question: Can one person make a difference?

Teaching Ideas : This multi-cultural book is fun to read aloud. It may spur good discussions on ways to outwit bureaucracy, on civil disobedience, or on the American mix of cultures. It may inspire good storytelling or creative writing about other similar incidents. The book may work well in a theme of communal responsibility (with, for ex., Miss Rumphius) or the theme of community (with a book like Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds, or To Hell with Dying) or the theme of urban life (with An Angel for Solomon Singer). The teacher may want to compare the grammas to those in Joy Luck Club, and read aloud an excerpt from that book. It may provide an introduction into class involvement in local issues (i.e., letter writing to the city council or mayor) or into an ethnic food fest with recipes written by the students.

Author : **Littlechild, G.**

Illustrator : Littlechild, G.

Title : **This Land is My Land**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Children's Book Press

City : Emeryville

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-89239-119-7

Type : autobiography

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : prejudice, Native-Americans, family history, childhood memories, autobiography, art

Summary : By telling his own story in words and in art, Littlefield describes what it is to be Native-American in the United States. He pays tribute to his ancestors, and to the Native-American culture and history.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to use this as part of a text set on childhood memories or in a unit on the Native-American experience. Students may want to talk about the match between the art and the words, may want to talk about the role prejudice played in their own lives, or may want to write their own stories following Littlefield's organization. Teachers may want to pull out the idea of symbolism and develop it in the context of the book.

Author : **Longfellow, H.W.** Illustrator : Rand, T.

Title : **Paul Revere's Ride** Date : 1990

Publisher : Dutton Children's Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-525-44610-9

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : US history, Boston geography

Summary : Longfellow's famous poem tells the story of Revere's call to arms to his countryfolk in 1775.

Teaching Ideas : For ABE classes, teachers may want to read it aloud and briefly discuss the book in terms of US history. In a family literacy setting, teachers may want to use the book as a foundation of a history/geography lesson incorporating map reading and math (in figuring the number of miles and perhaps miles per hour).

Author : **Lyons, M.E.** Illustrator :

Title : **Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life and Folklore of Zora Neale Hurston** Date : 1993

Publisher : Collier City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-02-044445-1 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : biography, nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult : y

Picture :

Asian :

African American : y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : 20th century US history, determination to succeed, African-Americans, authors, origins of African-American folklore, the Harlem Renaissance, plight of women

Summary : Part of the Great Achievers series, this book chroncles the life and writings of Zora Neale Hurston, an important African-American writer of the first-half of this century. The book is 121 pages and contains lots of photographs. The author has woven chapters together with both stories of Hurston's life and selections from her books. The author presents a balanced biography that shows Hurston's determination to live her life on her terms despite racism, poverty, criticism from other Black writers, and dangerous conditions for data-gathering. Although Hurston's writings contain lots of dialect, which may be hard for many ABE readers, the context of the chapter makes her writing accessible.

Teaching Ideas : This book could spark many creative writing ideas, but in the hands of a good teacher would also be a good tool to help students to learn to read and write about literature. The way the texts are handled is a good model of the way many writers and teachers of English present texts. The twelve chapters can be read in chunks but would be too difficult for new readers. Teachers may want to use chapters of the book to present a unit on the importance of childhood in shaping achievers' lives, a unit on telling/writing tall tales, especially folktales, and to supplement a unit on American history of the '30s and '40s. Especially recommended for GED students.

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Sarah, Plain and Tall** Date : 1985

Publisher : HarperTrophy City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-440205-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : loss and love, journeys, community and home, stepmothers, non-traditional families, Midwestern living in the 1800's

Summary : This short book (58 pages) tells the heart-felt story of a mail-order bride coming from Maine to the Midwest; the children (who have lost their mother) desperately hope she'll stay.

Teaching Ideas : This short novel provides dozens of teaching possibilities. It could be part of a history or geography unit (the settings of Maine and the prairie lands make for good comparisons). The attention to language is unusually done and may encourage students to respond creatively or with essays of comparisons. Teachers could demonstrate a character analysis, while the students follow by analyzing the children. Or it could be paired with a child's book with lovely sea images, Celia's Island Journal (C.Thaxter). Teachers could follow the reading of the book by showing the Hallmark Hall of Fame film and guiding students in making comparisons. It may spark discussions on what it means to be a family.

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Journey** Date : 1991

Publisher : Dell Yearling City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-40809-1 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, betrayal, loss, grandparents, photography, coming of age

Summary : Journey, an eleven-year-old boy whose Mom has left him and his sister to live with her parents, feels angry and betrayed. He spends the summer looking at family photos, learning to recognize the sustaining love of his grandparents, and letting go of his anger.

Teaching Ideas : This 83 page book would make a good read aloud, especially among listeners of various ages. Students may choose to keep journals as they read and reflect on families, on how we sustain each other, and on their own family histories. Teachers may want to ask students to look at how Journey's point of view is expressed and write a letter or diary entry from the point of view of another character. Teachers may also want to supplement by talking about photography and family photos.

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Baby** Date : 1993

Publisher : Delacorte City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-31133-8

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : accepting loss, finding joy, family, community, love, grief, death of a child

Summary : A family (parents, daughter, and grandmother) living on an island in New England finds a baby on their doorstep with a note asking them to care for her temporarily. They begin to love the baby, even though they know they will have to say goodbye, and through the process of becoming attached to the child they are able to deal with their grief from having lost their own child.

Teaching Ideas : Perhaps this moving story should not be taught, but should just be read and enjoyed and discussed. However, discussions on family (on raising children not your own) and on dealing with grief could logically follow. If teachers choose work with various component parts of the book, they may want students to examine the author's use of language to create a mood and to create images.

Author : **Mathis, S.** Illustrator : Dillon, L. & Dillon, D.

Title : **A Hundred Penny Box** Date : 1993

Publisher : Puffin City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-032169-1 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : death, old age, needs of senior citizens, relationship between child and older relative

Summary : A young boy loves his Great great Aunt Dew, her stories, and her box of one hundred pennies, one for each of her birthdays. But Michael's mother is impatient with them both and wants to throw the box out.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to discuss the characterization of Michael's mother and may want to predict what will happen. A family literacy class may want to discuss intergenerational relationships in their families. It may serve as a springboard to writing, inquiry, and thinking about the needs of the aging in the students' communities. The teacher will be able to supplement this book with newspaper articles about the sandwich generation or the elderly.

Author : **Maugham, S.** Illustrator : Essley, R.

Title : **Appointment** Date : 1993

Publisher : Green Tiger Press City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-671-75887-X

Type : classic fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : death, Middle East

Summary : This lavishly illustrated book is a distillation of the classic Somerset Maugham novella Appointment in Samarra. Not until the very end do we realize that the important appointment that the man must keep is an appointment with death. The illustrations (which evoke Rembrandt), the subject matter, as well as the text (which is minimal) suggest that this is more of an adult coffee table book than a typical picture book.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may use this with other books that have surprise endings. Or it may be an excellent introduction to the Arab world: the markets, architecture, clothing, etc. as well as its geography. The book lends itself to an art history unit or toward a discussion of classic themes in literature.

Author : **McDermott, G.** Illustrator : McDermott, G.

Title : **The Stone-cutter** Date : 1978

Publisher : Puffin Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-050289-0 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : Japanese folktale
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : power, abuses of power, folktales, legends, Japan

Summary : A man gets what he wishes for, but then oversteps his bounds because of his desire to show off his power. The illustrations are bold color collages.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this book carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of folktales and legends. This book could be used in comparison with other cautionary tales or morality tales, or it could be used with ESL families as part of a unit of folktales from various countries.

Author : **Melville, H.** Illustrator : Locker, T.

Title : **A Catskill Eagle** Date : 1991

Publisher : Philomel City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-21857-2

Type : lyrical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : nature, eagles, symbolism, wildlife, ecology, poetry

Summary : The book quotes a few lines from Melville's classic, Moby Dick. The art is beautifully evocative and turns the book into more of a coffee table art book than a typical picture book.

Teaching Ideas : This book would tie in with a unit on the environment, ecology, or wildlife. It may be used with other excerpts from classic works. Teachers could use this book as inspiration for poetry writing about nature or a basis for a discussion about art and how illustrations work in relationship with a text.

Author : **Mitchell, M.K.** Illustrator : Ransome, J.

Title : **Uncle Jed's Barbershop** Date : 1993

Publisher : Simon & Schuster City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-671-76969-3

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US History

Themes : Great Depression, race relations, segregation, hard work, family, success against great odds, realizing your dreams, African-Americans

Summary : A woman tells the story of her Uncle Jed, an African-American barber who travelled a regular route, saving his money for his own shop. When she became sick, he gave up his money for her operation, and when the Depression came, he lost again. Finally at age 79 he realized his dream. Although the cover makes it look as though it is written for young children, it is appropriate for older readers.

Teaching Ideas : This simple story could spark older students to write their own Depression stories or stories about their relatives. It may make a nice pair with Belton's Miss Ida's Porch or with an excerpt from To Kill a Mockingbird. Teachers may want to pair it with newspaper articles of the day.

Author : **Mochizuki, K.** Illustrator : Lee, D.

Title : **Baseball Saved Us** Date : 1993

Publisher : Lee & Low City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-880000-01-6

Type : fictional history
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : war, WW II, Japanese internment camps, baseball, prejudice

Summary : A young boy in an internment camp finds baseball to be his saving grace, although his determination and spirit is what sees him through.

Teaching Ideas : This could be used in a unit on war (perhaps with Bunting's The Wall), on in a unit on WW II (with Innocenti's Rose Blanche and Hiroshima No Pika and Faithful Elephants). It may spark good discussions on prejudice, ways of coping with it, what causes it, or discussions about generations and disempowerment.

Author : **Morimoto, J.** Illustrator : Morimoto, J. & T. Hood

Title : **My Hiroshima** Date : 1987

Publisher : Puffin Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-054524-7 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : Japanese history

Themes : World War II, Japan, atom bomb, environment

Summary : This book tells the story of a Japanese survivor of the atomic bomb and offers a perspective on how the "enemy" suffered too.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to supplement this book with nonfiction historical information about why the bomb was dropped and geography work with maps. It would fit well with a World War II text set, including Faithful Elephants and Say's Grandfather's Journey.

Author : **Morris, A.** Illustrator : Heyman, K.

Title : **Bread, bread, bread** Date : 1989

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-688-06335-7 ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-06334-9

Type : docu photos
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American : y
Latino/a : y
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : multicultural nature of eating, food

Summary : The photos and very easy text show/tell of people eating bread all over the world.

Teaching Ideas : The book could be used as part of an ethnic food festival. The very easy text makes it appropriate for beginning ABE programs, ESL programs, as well as family literacy programs. Students who have access to a camera may want to write their own books on a different topic using this book as a model or may want to create a class cookbook.

Author : **Musgrove, M.** Illustrator : Dillon, L.& Dillon, D.

Title : **Ashanti to Zulu** Date : 1976

Publisher : Puffin Pied Piper City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-054604-9 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : alphabet and fact book
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : history, Africa, rituals, coming-of-age

Summary : Each letter of this alphabet book describes a different African culture. It is meant as a reference or resource book, but the fabulous illustrations create a lively African world.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to consult this book for information about African cultures, for African geography, or for visual pleasure.

Author : **Myers, W.D.** Illustrator :

Title : **Brown Angels: An Album of Picture and Verse** Date : 1993

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-022918-7

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : African-American families, photographs, poetry, childhood

Summary : This book is a collection of very short poems and photographs of African-American children. Many of the photos are from the turn of the century.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read a few of the poems aloud and ask students to bring in their own childhood photos or write their own poetry, using these short ones of Walter Dean Myers as models. This book may be a logical part of a unit on the turn of the century and might be paired with Hamilton's The Bells of Christmas. Teachers may also want to use this book as an introduction to the novels of W.D. Myers.

Author : **Oppenheim, S.L.** Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **The Lily Cupboard** Date : 1992

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-024670-7

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : Dutch history

Themes : WW II, taking risks, hiding Jews, rural life, Holland

Summary : A Dutch farm family hides a Jewish girl, who in turn wants to protect a rabbit.

Teaching Ideas : This could be used as part of a WW II unit (along with Hanna's Cold Winter and Faithful Elephants). It could be used with Fisher's Kinderdike for a unit on Holland or could be used with maps in a geography lesson. Students may want to discuss taking personal risks for people from other communities or talk about their own experiences with war. Students may want to predict what will happen to these survivors after the war.

Author : **Paterson, K.** Illustrator :

Title : **Lyddie** Date : 1991

Publisher : Puffin Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-034981-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : 19th century US history, women's roles, labor union movement

Summary : Lyddie tells the story of a 19th century farm girl who because of financial worries moves to Massachusetts to work in a garment factory. She endures various hardships but does not lose her spunk or integrity.

Teaching Ideas : Although Lyddie is a fictional creation, this book would fit well in a US history unit. Students may want to discuss women's issues and the changing role of women throughout history, or economics and the effect lack of money has on women's roles, or the relationship between labor and education. It may serve as a motivator to research the labor movement.

Author : **Paulsen, G.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Winter Room** Date : 1989

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-40454-1 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : farm life, intergenerational relationships, hard work, storytelling

Summary : This book tells the story of Eldon, a boy growing up in the mid 20th century in rural Minnesota. He and his brother Wayne work hard to help out on the farm, but have time for fun and adventures too. After a short introduction, the book is structured in 4 parts, one for each season, with the last chapter, Winter, including three of Uncle David's stories. The book may particularly appeal to men.

Teaching Ideas : Since the structure of this book is untraditional, teachers may want students to read the book piecemeal or only read certain chapters of it. Teachers may want to read aloud the jumping-out-of-the-hayloft scene or may want to use this in conjunction with Garrison Keillor's radio program, "Prairie Home Companion." Students may want to tell their own stories from their childhoods as a response, or teachers could ask students to retell one of the scenes from the point of view of one of the adults.

Author : **Paulsen, G.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Nightjohn**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Delacorte

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-30838-8

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : slavery, learning to read, racism, determination, oral tellings

Summary : An escaped slave returns to the South to teach others how to read. This 92 page book, a blend of fiction and information, is very bleak and powerful, and the violence is quite graphic.

Teaching Ideas : Although the occasional use of dialect may confuse readers, this bleak portrayal of slavery and of the determination of slaves to learn to read may provide powerful reading. It may be used in a US history unit (1830--60) or in a unit on the African-American experience. As a follow-up, students may want to discuss the symbolic vs. real power of reading and the importance of literacy.

Author : **Polacco, P.**

Illustrator : Polacco, P.

Title : **Chicken Sunday**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Philomel

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22133-6

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American : y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : friendship, prejudice, community interaction, resourcefulness of children

Summary : Two African-American boys and their white friend, a girl, try to earn enough money to buy Miss Eula Mae the Easter bonnet she's been longing for. The children befriend a Jewish shopkeeper who helps them succeed.

Teaching Ideas : Based on some of her childhood experiences, Polacco's Chicken Sunday can elicit discussions on prejudice and misunderstanding, on love and acceptance--especially among ethnicities and races, and on the way communities can divide and heal. Teachers might want to ask why Polacco juxtaposed realistic photographs with whimsical faces and objects. This book is a wonderful book to read aloud or to use with other books about communities, such as Levine's Pearl Moscowitz.

Author : **Price, L.** Illustrator : Dillon, L. & Dillon, D.

Title : **Aida** Date : 1990

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15200405-X

Type : legend, opera
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : sacrificial love, jealousy, betrayal, Egypt, tragedy, royalty, opera

Summary : The opera diva Leontyne Price retells this classic operatic tale made famous by the 19th century composer Giuseppi Verdi: the princess Aida is captured and forced into slavery by Egyptian soldiers, but she and rival army leader Radames fall in love. They are betrayed by a jealous Egyptian princess and die together.

Teaching Ideas : This is not easy reading, although it would be appropriate for GED students (the names may give trouble). If the class studies the book or if the ABE teacher reads it aloud, certainly everyone should listen to parts of or all of the opera. It may provide a good introduction to classical African-American musicians (Kathleen Battle, etc.), and in that connection may be read with Belton's From Miss Ida's Porch. Or readers could look at similar stories where lovers are from warring families (like Romeo and Juliet). Teachers may want to follow with discussions on the consequences of war, or on loyalty versus love.

Author : **Roop, P.& C.** Illustrator : Hanson, P.

Title : **I, Columbus: My Journal, 1492-3** Date : 1990

Publisher : Walker and Company City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8027-6977-2

Type : diary
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : diaries and journals, exploration, history, geography, fear of the unknown, cultural attitudes

Summary : This handsome 57 page book, illustrated with watercolors, is taken directly from Columbus' diary. The book records his voyage and his adventures, and begins and ends with short accounts of historical information. It is appropriate for mid-level ABE learners on up.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be used in many ways, in an American history unit, or geography unit on voyages, or in a unit on diaries and journals. Students may need help getting started, so perhaps the teacher could read the first couple of pages aloud. Teachers could talk about point of view and pair it with the Yolen's book Encounter. Students may want to discuss Columbus' intent to have the Native Americans converted to Christianity, his kidnapping of several individuals, and the broader philosophical issues of imperialism. Teachers may want to tie this in to a study of geography and math, using Columbus' calculations according to his stated and his confidential records.

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator : Goode, D.

Title : **When I was Young in the Mountains** Date : 1982

Publisher : Dutton City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0140548750 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscence, the Appalachian mountains, community

Summary : The narrator fondly remembers various aspects and details of growing up in a mountain community.

Teaching Ideas : It would be interesting to pair this with other reminiscences (like Mitchell's Uncle Jed's Barbershop), with other books with a strong setting (like Hendershot's In Coal Country), or with other Appalachian books (like Rylant's Appalachia). It could also be used for prediction (i.e., did she stay in the mountains of Appalachia?).

Author : **Rylant, C.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Every Living Thing**

Date : 1985

Publisher : Macmillan

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-689-71263-4

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-777200-4

Type : short stories

Rating : W

Young Adult : y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : y

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : appreciation of all living creatures, compassion, animals

Summary : Each story in this collection features an animal, and in every case the existence of the animal helps to foster feelings of love or compassion in the people.

Teaching Ideas : Since these stories are very short, the teacher may want to read one aloud in preparation for sharing pet stories and a writing assignment. The teacher may want to analyze how the author uses language, paces the story, or develops characters. The book may preface a discussion on what it means to show love and compassion.

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds** Date : 1991

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-201605

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscences, home, community

Summary : The author and the illustrator, both from Appalachia, lovingly remember the people, the customs, and the dogs.

Teaching Ideas : It might be fun to talk about tone in connection with this book, since the author chooses her words and the illustrator his subjects with love and with a sense of humor. It could be used as part of a geographic unit, with each student writing and collecting her/his own information about different parts of the country. It would fit in a rural unit (perhaps in contrast to Rylant's Angel for Solomon Singer) or in a unit on reminiscences.

Author : **Rylant, C.**

Illustrator : Catalanetto, P.

Title : **An Angel for Solomon Singer**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Orchard

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0531059782

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : loneliness, urban life, aging

Summary : In this urban story, a transplanted Hoosier lives a lonely life in New York City until he finds warmth and companionship in a cafe.

Teaching Ideas : This could be used in a unit on city living, with books like Fly Away Home. It makes a natural springboard to social issues of 20th century urban life. It could be contrasted with books that about communities, like Levine's Pearl Moscowitz or Rylant's Appalachia.

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator :

Title : **Missing May** Date : 1992

Publisher : Yearling City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-40865-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : dealing with grief, death, friendship, rural life, nontraditional families, Appalachia, journeys

Summary : A twelve-year-old girl named Summer and her uncle are grieving and trying to carry on after the death of Aunt May (his wife). They decide, with the help of an unusual boy from Summer's school, to try to contact May's spirit, and in the process learn how to let go.

Teaching Ideas : It might be fun to do a whole unit on the books of C. Rylant. Certainly this would pair well with Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds or with her book of poems, Something Permanent. Teachers should be sure to talk about geography with this book, since the setting is very important. The characters' seemingly strange ways and the issue of how we see ourselves and how others see us may provoke reflection and journal entries. Students may also want to discuss the special dynamics of nontraditional families or their own attempts to deal with loss or think through their own creativity (in terms of Ob's creation of whirligigs).

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator :

Title : **I Have Seen Castles** Date : 1993

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-238003-5

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscences, first love, World War II, pacifism, loss

Summary : A 67-year-old man who suffered and lost his idealism during WW II remembers growing up in Pittsburgh and falling in love with a young woman pacificist who couldn't understand why he would want to go overseas and fight.

Teaching Ideas : This 97 page book could be used with picture books that are set in the US and about WW II (like Stevenson's Don't You Know There's a War on? or Mochizuki's Baseball Saved Us). The reminiscent tone of the book may spark story telling or journal writing. Students may want to think about and discuss pacifism and lessons learned from war.

Author : **Sanders, S.** Illustrator : Kastner, J.

Title : **Aurora Means Dawn** Date : 1989

Publisher : Bradbury Press City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-778270-0

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : Ohio history, US frontier history, community spirit, courage

Summary : This picture book tells the story of the first family to settle in Aurora, Ohio, and offers a glimpse of the hardships they willingly took and of the support of their neighbors.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits well in an Ohio history unit (with Fleischman's The Borning Room, Hendershot's two books and Hamilton's The Bells of Christmas). It also belongs in a unit on community spirit and communal support, along with books such as Levine's Pearl Moscowitz, Fisher's Kinderdike, and Cooney's Miss Rumphius. Among other things, students could discuss the hardships faced by the pioneers as well as the use of soft watercolors and the effect they make on the tone of the book.

Author : **Say, A.** Illustrator : Say, A.

Title : **The Lost Lake** Date : 1989

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-63036-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : dealing with divorce, camping, adventures, father-son relationships

Summary : A boy and his dad go out trekking, looking for a private lake, and in the process they grew closer.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to help students examine the relationship between the father and the son, or guide them in writing about or discussing father-son interactions in their own families. It may provoke stories of special undiscovered spots, lakes, forests, etc., or of special trips and journeys.

Author : **Say, A.** Illustrator : Say, A.

Title : **Grandfather's Journey** Date : 1993

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-57035-2

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : Asian-Americans, longing for another land, immigration, grandparent/child relationships, modern US history

Summary : This book shows through its photographic-like illustrations and through its minimal text the displacement people feel when they immigrate, the longing they have for the old country and old ways, and the confusion that new loyalties bring.

Teaching Ideas : This book would fit well into a text set on immigration or on the Asian-American experience. Students may want to write their own family histories and their own stories of displacement.

Author : **Shulevitz, U.** Illustrator : Shulevitz, U.

Title : **The Secret Room** Date : 1993

Publisher : Farrar, Straus, Giroux City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-374-34131-1

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : true wisdom; jealousy

Summary : A king is impressed with a man's wisdom and appoints him to the court, but his chief counselor becomes jealous.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this story carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of folktales and legends. Teachers could pair this book with other legends from other cultures (this one is vaguely Eastern European), with other tales about wisdom (such as King Solomon and the two mothers). Students could write their own answer to the question What is Wisdom.

Author : **Stanley, D.** Illustrator : Stanley, D.

Title : **Cleopatra** Date : 1994

Publisher : Morrow Junior Books City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-10413-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : the Roman Empire, Egypt, history, Mark Antony, biography

Summary : This lively nonfiction account tells the history and story of the powerful Cleopatra and her husband Mark Antony. The book includes maps and a pronunciation guide and detailed illustrations.

Teaching Ideas : GED students may be interested in writing practice essays after reading this book. It may fit in a unit of biographies. Students may enjoy contrasting Cleopatra with other powerful women in history or enjoy analyzing the battle strategies.

Author : **Temple, F.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Grab Hands and Run**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Orchard

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-08630-5

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a : y
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : refugees, El Salvador, flight to freedom, persecution, modern history, families, fear, survival, immigration, US foreign policy

Summary : Based on a true story, this 165 page book tells of twelve-year-old Felipe, his sister, and his mother as they flee El Salvador when his father disappears. The family escapes, hides, and runs until, caught, they are finally placed in a new home in Canada. Although this book may be lengthy for some pre-GED students, the suspense moves the reader along, the characters are compelling, the vocabulary is not difficult, and the language is poetic and rich.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to begin by reading the first chapter aloud. Students may want to keep a journal as they read, in order to record reactions, observations, or perhaps their own stories. It could be used with other books about flights to freedom (like Cech's My Grandmother's Journey, Hopkinson's Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt, or Bunting's How Many Days to America?). Or teachers could pair it with newspaper accounts about immigration or about Latin American-US relations, or with videos about El Salvador.

Author : **Thomas, J.C.** Illustrator : Cooper, F.

Title : **Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea** Date : 1993

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-021088-5

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, self-esteem, racism, family history, cultural diversity

Summary : This well illustrated book of poetry uses the metaphor of extended family as nurturing tea.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to read some of the poems aloud or may want to chose a poem to study. They may want to identify figurative uses of language, may want to find their own metaphors for their families, and may want to respond to the poems by writing their own poetry.

Author : **Tsuchiya, Y.** Illustrator : Lewin, T.

Title : **Faithful Elephants: A True Story** Date : 1988

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-46555-9

Type : fictional history
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : animals, WW II, Japan

Summary : During WW II many zoo animals starved or, by order of the army, had to be killed. The story, set in a Tokyo zoo, shows the animals' helplessness in the face of human destruction.

Teaching Ideas : This makes a logical part of a WW II unit. It is especially interesting because it shows another side to war--animals and the environment--one not often considered. It may provoke thinking about and discussion on how the Japanese and the Germans suffered during WWII. It could be used in conjunction with a family literacy picture book, Hanna's Cold Winter, also about animals but set in Hungary during WW II.

Author : **Turner, A.** Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **Dakota Dugout** Date : 1985

Publisher : Macmillan City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-689-71296-0 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : US history, the frontier, hardships, survival

Summary : The book tells the story of a woman pioneer, the hardships, struggles, and pleasures of her life with her husband in a sod house on the prairie

Teaching Ideas : This book could be paired in interesting ways: on the frontier, with Aurora Means Dawn or Sarah, Plain and Tall; on journeys to new homes, with My Grandmother's Journey. After the book is read aloud, students could discuss the metaphors and study the simple and compact use of language. Readers may want to reminisce about their struggles, in poetry or in their own stories.

Author : **Van Allsburg, C.** Illustrator : Van Allsburg, C.

Title : **The Widow's Broom** Date : 1992

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-64051-2

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : legends, witches, hard work, prejudice, the use of violence, gratitude

Summary : A widow helps a witch recover from a fall, and in gratitude the witch leaves behind her broom to help the woman do her work. Suspicious neighbors try to burn the broom, but in the end the broom settles in with the woman.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will want to provide a context for the reading of tales and legends before introducing this story. The black and white illustrations and the character of the hard-working widow make this a good legend to use with ABE students, especially older women. Students may want to write their own fantasies or discuss the role that suspicion has played for all communities throughout the ages. Teachers may want to ask students to compare this with the fantasies on soap operas and in talk shows.

Author : **Verhoeven, R. & van der Rol, R.** Illustrator :

Title : **Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary** Date : 1993

Publisher : Penguin Books, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-670-84932-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : WWII, Anne Frank, Europe, the Netherlands, biography, Jews, Holocaust, prejudice, history

Summary : This nonfiction reference book is filled with photographs and details about Anne Frank, her family, and the world in which she lived.

Teaching Ideas : This book may be most appropriate as a supplement to Anne Frank's Diary. Although not many students will be interested in reading it from cover to cover, it offers plenty of photographs and inviting materials for students to browse through. GED and family literacy students may want to use this as a model for creating a family history.

Author : **Volavkova, Hana**

Illustrator :

Title : **I Never Saw Another Butterfly**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Schocken Books

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8052-4115-9

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : history

Themes : WW II, Holocaust, concentration camps, Jews, children and war, poetry and art, European history

Summary : This book consists of poems and drawings done by children living in the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II, a solid introduction, and historical information stating the fates of the children authors/artists. Students and teachers who read the preface and closing comments carefully will find this a powerful, gripping demonstration of the devastation of the Holocaust. Programs may want to buy one copy as a reference book or a book to be excerpted.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may need to prepare students by providing context. It is a very moving book that makes a natural part of a unit on the Holocaust or Children in War. Teachers will want to pick and choose a number of the poems and drawings to focus on, or students may want to chose a poem to present to the class. Parallels with other Holocaust-type events (such as Sarajevo) could be explored.

Author : **Volkmer, J.A.**

Illustrator : Volkmer, J.A.

Title : **Song of the Chirimia**

Date : 1990

Publisher : Carolrhoda

City : Minneapolis

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-87614-592-6

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : Guatemalan folktale

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a : y

ESL : y

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : folktale, love story, Guatemala

Summary : This story includes both the English and the Spanish text on each page. It begins with a map and a note about the ancient Mayans. In this tale, the king wants to find the right husband for his daughter. The illustrations are colorful and folk baroque in style.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will have to present this story carefully, providing a context for the appreciation of legends, fables, and folktales. This tale could be compared to others of its genre. Or perhaps ESL families could each present their own legend or folktale to their class. It may provide a good support for a lesson in geography or archeology.

Author : **Waldherr, K.** Illustrator : Waldherr, K.

Title : **Persephone and the Pomegranite** Date : 1993

Publisher : Dial Books for Young Readers City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1191-3

Type : myth
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : creation of the seasons, love between mother and daughter, myths and legends

Summary : The Persephone myth explains the seasons. The daughter is kidnapped by the ruler of the underworld, Pluto, who makes her his queen. But Persephone's mother, Demeter, grieving, refuses to let Spring return until she is again with her daughter. In the end Persephone decides to spend half of the year with each of them.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will need to introduce this book with care, placing the story within the genre of Greek mythology. It could be part of a multi-cultural unit on creation/nature myths or a unit that investigates what human questions myths attempt to answer. It may be fun to compare this myth with the mother/daughter book Indigo and Moonlight Gold.

Author : **Walker, A.** Illustrator : Deeter, C.

Title : **To Hell with Dying** Date : 1988

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-15-289074-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscences, dying, the power of love, alcoholism, grief, tolerance

Summary : The author tells the story of growing up down the road from old alcoholic Mr. Sweet, who would fall on his death bed from time to time. She and her little brother would revive Mr. Sweet by loving him and playing his guitar and letting him know he was needed. Walker makes a comment on the importance of love over respectability.

Teaching Ideas : Because of the controversial subject matter and the language of the title, this book would have to be introduced carefully and treated sensitively. But some readers may love reading this book with other African American books, as part of a unit on family and community, or as part of a unit on dying. The use of specific details to make the memory come alive would be helpful in writing a memoir. Clearly meant for an older audience, the book is a good introduction to Alice Walker's writing.

Author : **Wild, M.** Illustrator : Vivas, J.

Title : **The Very Best of Friends** Date : 1990

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-200625-7

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : loneliness, dealing with death, animals, husbands and wives, rural life

Summary : When a farmer dies, his wife deals with her grief by ignoring (hating) his favorite cat, until she finally realizes that both of them could could find companionship with each other.

Teaching Ideas : This might make a good pair with Rylant's Missing May, since in both of them country folk are dealing with grief and loss, or with one of Rylant's stories in Every Living Thing, in which the animals help people act more fully human. It may be interesting to use this book in a Family Literacy program, since the truth this book expresses may be more immediately obvious to children than to adults. Teachers might want to follow up with journal writing or with a magazine article on pets and loneliness or pets and aging.

Author : **Wild, M.** Illustrator : Vivas, J.

Title : **Let the Celebrations Begin!** Date : 1991

Publisher : Orchard City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-08537-6

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : WW II, concentration camps, generosity in the face of great suffering, hope for the future

Summary : During WW II, in a concentration camp, women hoarded buttons and odds and ends in order to make the children dolls and presents for the day they would be released. Although the art has been criticized for being too whimsical for its grim subject matter, others have found the illustrations very moving.

Teaching Ideas : This book is controversial; teachers might ask students to guess why. Partly it is criticized for making light of a horrible situation (because the art is whimsical), and partly because no children were left on liberation day at the particular concentration camp where this is set (i.e., the historical facts are not accurate). It makes an obvious component of a unit on WW II. It could be paired with Oppenheim's The Lily Cupboard and with I Never Saw Another Butterfly, but should be introduced with care.

Author : **Wolff, V.E.** Illustrator :

Title : **Make Lemonade** Date : 1993

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-48141-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : teenage mothers, family, poverty, community, resourcefulness, finding direction, goal-setting, education, dreams, urban life

Summary : When fourteen-year-old LaVaughn takes a job babysitting for seventeen-year-old Jolly's two children, neither girl realizes how much they'll learn from each other. Despite no job, a lousy apartment, and bleak future, Jolly, with the help of LaVaughn and her mother, learns to hold on to her children and find a new life. This 200 page book may seem daunting at first, particularly because the first-person narrative is arranged in lines that look like blank verse. But the story is so compelling that many reluctant readers will be quickly drawn in.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may need to read several pages aloud first, to help students get used to the style. Since the characters are very real and compelling, students may want to keep a journal to record their reactions or to write their own stories. It could be read with other urban stories or books on community (like Rylant's An Angel for Solomon Singer or Bunting's Fly Away Home or Levine's Pearl Moscowitz). It may inspire research into community problems or action on the part of the students. Although not for the children, the book may make compelling reading for the mothers in a Family Literacy program, or the upper level students in an ESL program, or all but level one of an ABE program.

Author : **Wright, C.**

Illustrator : Griffith, G.

Title : **Jumping the Broom**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Holiday House

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8234-1042-0

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American : y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : marriage customs, African-American customs, slavery, 19th century American history

Summary : An eight-year-old slave girl describes the preparations and customs for her sister's wedding on the plantation. The combination of hardships and vitality, depicted in this book, clearly created a strong sense of community and of extended family.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to discuss celebrations and customs and how they have changed over time. Students may want to write responses to this book by telling about their own weddings. It may fit well in a unit on slavery or on African-American history. Students may want to discuss ways members of the slave community helped each other overcome the degradations of slavery.

Author : **Yolen, J.** Illustrator : Shannon, D.

Title : **Encounter** Date : 1992

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : San Diego

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-225962-7

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : invasion, betrayal, founding of the US, US history, Columbus, Native Americans

Summary : An old Taino man tells a story about his childhood, about the day the invaders came and his people welcomed them. At the end it is clear that he is talking about Columbus. The books ends with an author's note. This is a powerful book with superior illustrations.

Teaching Ideas : This could provoke good discussions about history and differing points of view. It could be an important part of a unit on US history or on Native Americans.

Author : **Yolen, J.** Illustrator : Cooney, B.

Title : **Letting Swift River Go** Date : 1992

Publisher : Little, Brown and Company City : Boston

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-316-9689-4

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : loss, grief and anger from loss, accepting change, environment, family history, community

Summary : This book tells the story of a community's act of selling up the houses and land to the government so that a water reservoir can be built. It is told from the point of view of a woman who felt as though she lost her childhood because all her landmarks had been covered with water.

Teaching Ideas : This book lends itself to several teaching ideas and lots of good discussion. It makes a good companion with Levine's Pearl Moscowitz for the topic of community activism. Students could study environmental changes (from non-natural forces). Students might interview elderly family members about major changes they have experienced, write them up, edit them, and put them together into a class book.